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LOUISIANA

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Dudley J. Patin, Jr., Secretary

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 44094

FEBRUARY 1984

RELEASE DATE:
March 26, 1984

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN ABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY FEBRUARY 1984				REVISED JANUARY 1984				REVISED FEBRUARY 1983			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,889.8	1,704.5	185.3	9.8	1,887.8	1,687.8	200.0	10.6	1,875.4	1,673.2	238.2	12.7
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	76.8	69.0	7.8	10.2	76.6	68.4	8.2	10.8	74.9	65.1	9.8	13.0
Baton Rouge 2/	241.4	222.8	18.6	7.7	239.9	219.7	20.2	8.4	233.8	210.4	23.4	10.0
Lafayette 3/	95.9	89.7	6.2	6.5	95.3	88.5	6.8	7.1	95.1	87.8	7.3	7.7
Lake Charles 4/	75.8	65.1	10.7	14.2	76.7	65.1	11.6	15.2	76.9	65.4	11.5	15.0
Monroe 5/	58.6	52.9	5.7	9.7	58.5	52.5	6.0	10.3	59.8	52.3	7.5	12.6
New Orleans 6/	529.1	484.3	44.8	8.5	530.2	482.4	47.8	9.0	521.5	464.2	57.3	11.0
Shreveport 7/	167.6	153.1	14.5	8.7	167.8	151.7	16.1	9.6	167.2	145.5	21.7	13.0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana during February amounted to 1,563,200, an increase of 7,100 above the previous month and an increase of 17,100 over the comparable period a year ago. An increase in the employment level for the state's nonmanufacturing industries was spearheaded by payroll additions in the government sector. Louisiana's manufacturing industries showed higher employment as both the durable and nondurable goods segments experienced upturns.

1/ Includes Avoyelles, Grant, & Rapides parishes. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Lafayette Parish only. 4/ Calcasieu Parish only. 5/ Ouachita Parish only. 6/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany parishes. 7/ Includes Bossier, Caddo, and Webster parishes.

This public document was published at a total cost of $1,079.79. 2,900 copies of this public document were published in this 1st printing at a cost of $1,079.79. The total cost of all printing of this document, including reprints, is $1,079.79. This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Labor, Office of Employment Security, Research and Statistics Unit, P.O. Box 44094, Baton Rouge, La. 70804. Its purpose is to disseminate information pertaining to labor market developments and employment trends under the authority of Part 602.6, Title 20, Chap. V of the Code of Federal Regulations. It was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

Estimated employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing increased by 600 workers from January's level. Increased production of wood buildings and mobile homes resulted in an increase in employment for the lumber and wood products industry. Furniture and fixtures employment was up due mostly to more demand for household furniture. Less business for firms manufacturing concrete, gypsum and plaster products, along with a labor dispute in that segment, resulted in a decrease in stone, clay and glass products employment. Cutbacks in the manufacture of fabricated structural metal products were primarily responsible for the decrease in fabricated metal products employment. Increased production of engines and turbines, construction and related machinery, metalworking machinery, and special industry machinery all contributed to the higher employment level in the machinery, except electrical, industry. Accounting for the upturn in electric and electronic equipment employment was the increased demand for communication equipment. Payrolls in the state's transportation equipment industry dropped due to a decline in activity at the state's shipyards.

Estimated employment in the nondurable goods segment of manufacturing for February was 97,400, an increase of 100 from last month. Food and kindred products employment declined in February due mostly to a slackening in seafood canning and in vegetable canning. The higher employment level in apparel and other textile products resulted in large part from increased output of men's and boys' furnishings. The paper and allied products industry payroll level rose for the current month mostly resulting from an increase in paperboard mills employment. Lessened demand for industrial organic chemicals primarily accounted for the drop in chemcials and allied products payrolls. Other nondurable goods employment edged up by 100.

Louisiana's employment in nonmanufacturing industries during February was 1,387,600, an increase of 6,400 from the January figure of 1,381,200. Increased activity in the production of crude petroleum and natural gas was responsible for the higher employment level in mining this month. A decrease in heavy construction activity accounted for the drop in construction payrolls. An increased need for marine cargo handling pushed the employment level upward in transportation and public utilities. A decrease in trade was centered in the retail segment as department stores, apparel stores, and variety and discount outlets cut their payrolls. Contributiong to an upturn in finance, insurance and real estate employment were payrolls additions in banking and real estate. Increases in educational services were significant in the higher level of employment registered for services in February. Government employment for the current month moved higher largely as a result of increases in state and local education payrolls.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's production workers in manufacturing decreased from $422.47 in January to $421.17 in February, a decrease of $1.30, but an increase of $35.11 above the comparable period a year ago. Average hourly earnings were eight cents lower in February than last month, but $0.40 cents more than February of last year. Weekly hours averaged 41.7 for the current month, up by 0.2 hours from January's figure.

Estimated total unemployment during February amounted to 185,300, a decrease of 14,700 from the January level of 200,000 and 52,900 below the February a year ago figure. The unemployment rate for February was 9.8 percent, a decrease of 0.8 percentage points lower than last month's rate and 2.9 percentage points below February of last year. The comparable national unemployment rate for February was 8.4 percent compared to 8.8 percent in January and 11.3 percent for February a year ago. The state's civilian labor force increased from 1,887,800 in January to 1,889,800 in February, a gain of 2,000. Total employment, estimated at 1,704,500 for the current month, was up by 16,700 above last month's figure and 67,300 higher than February of last year.

Louisiana's unemployment rate is expected to fall slightly in the next month or two. Employment in certain segments of nonmanufacturing, in particular construction, trade and services, will probably experience growth in the next few months. Louisiana's manufacturing industries may show some setbacks from present employment levels.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1984*	Jan. 1984**	Feb. 1983**	Net Change from Jan. 1984	Net Change from Feb. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	1,563.2	1,556.1	1,546.1	+ 7.1	+ 17.1
MINING AND QUARRYING	80.0	79.7	84.0	+ 0.3	- 4.0
Oil and Gas Extraction	76.8	76.5	80.9	+ 0.3	- 4.1
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.2	3.2	3.1	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	112.6	113.1	109.3	- 0.5	+ 3.3
MANUFACTURING	175.6	174.9	180.1	+ 0.7	- 4.5
Durable Goods	78.2	77.6	80.8	+ 0.6	- 2.6
Lumber and Wood Products	13.1	13.0	12.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
Furniture and Fixtures	0.8	0.7	0.8	+ 0.1	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	7.2	7.3	7.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Primary Metal Industries	3.4	3.4	3.8	0	- 0.4
Fabricated Metal Products	13.2	13.3	14.0	- 0.1	- 0.8
Machinery, Except Electrical	9.6	9.5	10.4	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Electric & Electronic Equipment	8.7	8.1	8.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.3
Transportation Equipment	20.0	20.1	21.6	- 0.1	- 1.6
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.2	2.2	2.3	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	97.4	97.3	99.3	+ 0.1	- 1.9
Food & Kindred Products	21.4	21.8	22.2	- 0.4	- 0.8
Apparel & Other Textile Products	8.9	8.6	7.8	+ 0.3	+ 1.1
Paper & Allied Products	11.9	11.5	11.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.3
Printing & Publishing	9.8	9.8	9.6	0	+ 0.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	29.1	29.4	31.1	- 0.3	- 2.0
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.4	12.4	13.2	0	- 0.8
Petroleum Refining	11.7	11.8	12.5	- 0.1	- 0.8
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	3.9	3.8	3.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	114.3	113.7	119.9	+ 0.6	- 5.6
Railroad Transportation	7.1	7.1	6.9	0	+ 0.2
Transportation, ex. Railroads	67.3	66.6	70.1	+ 0.7	- 2.8
Communications & Public Utilities	39.9	40.0	42.9	- 0.1	- 3.0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	368.1	369.7	353.7	- 1.6	+ 14.4
Wholesale Trade	94.5	94.9	94.1	- 0.4	+ 0.4
Retail Trade	273.6	274.8	259.6	- 1.2	+ 14.0
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	56.2	58.5	54.5	- 2.3	+ 1.7
Food Stores	50.4	50.5	49.2	- 0.1	+ 1.2
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	31.0	30.8	29.9	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
Eating & Drinking Places	84.5	83.8	76.9	+ 0.7	+ 7.6
Other Retail Trade	51.5	51.2	49.1	+ 0.3	+ 2.4
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	83.5	83.4	80.5	+ 0.1	+ 3.0
Banking	27.8	27.8	27.0	0	+ 0.8
SERVICES	309.3	307.2	301.0	+ 2.1	+ 8.3
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	21.7	21.7	21.0	0	+ 0.7
Other Services	287.6	285.5	280.0	+ 2.1	+ 7.6
GOVERNMENT	319.8	314.4	317.6	+ 5.4	+ 2.2
Federal	34.4	34.4	33.8	0	+ 0.6
State and Local	285.4	280.0	283.8	+ 5.4	+ 1.6
State	101.7	97.5	103.2	+ 4.2	- 1.5
Local	183.7	182.5	180.6	+ 1.2	+ 3.1

* Preliminary **Revised

(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries

(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$421.17	$422.47	$386.06	41.7	41.5	39.8	$10.10	$10.18	$9.70
Durable Goods	385.85	384.17	360.90	41.4	41.0	40.1	9.32	9.37	9.00
Lumber & Wood Products	327.18	323.57	271.75	39.9	39.8	41.3	8.20	8.13	6.58
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	361.84	343.55	347.13	41.4	38.3	39.9	8.74	8.97	8.70
Fabricated Metal Products	383.83	375.30	395.65	42.6	41.7	41.3	9.01	9.00	9.58
Machinery, ex. Electrical	376.93	408.11	414.40	40.4	41.9	44.8	9.33	9.74	9.25
Electric & Electronic Equip.	454.46	449.59	396.61	43.2	42.9	39.9	10.52	10.48	9.94
Transportation Equipment	432.80	431.75	364.56	40.0	40.2	37.2	10.82	10.74	9.80
Nondurable Goods	452.76	456.29	413.42	42.0	41.9	39.6	10.78	10.89	10.44
Food & Kindred Products	282.17	293.38	254.82	38.6	39.7	37.2	7.31	7.39	6.85
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	190.61	180.94	152.65	38.9	34.4	35.5	4.90	5.26	4.30
Paper & Allied Products	487.13	509.71	486.00	43.3	44.4	43.2	11.25	11.48	11.25
Printing & Publishing	311.25	288.55	308.79	37.5	35.8	36.5	8.30	8.06	8.46
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	640.05	637.43	576.87	43.6	43.9	42.2	14.68	14.52	13.67
Petroleum & Coal Products	672.04	673.88	640.22	47.9	48.1	46.8	14.03	14.01	13.68
Petroleum Refining	674.80	684.41	654.26	48.2	48.3	46.5	14.00	14.17	14.07
MINING	504.13	556.15	513.46	44.3	49.0	45.6	11.38	11.35	11.26
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	473.21	476.19	447.23	39.9	40.7	39.3	11.86	11.70	11.38
BANKING	241.54	245.74	215.02	37.8	39.7	37.2	6.39	6.19	5.78

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 121,000 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 102,400 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATTON BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY FEBRUARY 1984				REVISED JANUARY 1984			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
Crowley (Acadia)	23,525	20,875	2,650	11.3	23,325	20,425	2,900	12.4
Oakdale (Allen)	6,375	5,000	1,375	21.5	6,325	4,925	1,400	22.2
Napoleonville (Assumption)	10,450	8,900	1,550	14.9	10,425	8,700	1,725	16.6
DeRidder (Beauregard)	11,750	10,325	1,425	12.1	11,700	10,200	1,500	12.9
Arcadia (Bienville)	7,025	6,375	650	9.3	6,975	6,275	700	9.9
Columbia (Caldwell)	4,625	4,075	550	11.9	4,575	4,000	575	12.6
Cameron (Cameron)	4,625	4,200	425	9.0	4,625	4,125	500	10.9
Jonesville (Catahoula)	6,275	5,575	700	11.1	6,175	5,425	750	12.2
Homer (Claiborne)	7,250	6,675	575	7.8	7,250	6,625	625	8.6
Ferriday (Concordia)	8,975	7,725	1,250	13.8	8,875	7,550	1,325	14.8
Mansfield (DeSoto)	11,025	9,725	1,300	11.8	10,950	9,550	1,400	12.8
Lake Providence (E.Carroll)	4,750	3,825	925	19.4	4,675	3,650	1,025	21.8
Clinton (East Feliciana)	7,550	6,950	600	8.0	7,575	6,850	725	9.6
Ville Platte (Evangeline)	13,850	11,925	1,925	13.9	13,625	11,650	1,975	14.4
Winnsboro (Franklin)	8,625	7,175	1,450	16.8	8,475	7,000	1,475	17.4
New Iberia (Iberia)	36,025	31,550	4,475	12.4	36,100	31,250	4,850	13.4
Plaquemine (Iberville)	14,750	13,225	1,525	10.4	14,775	13,050	1,725	11.6
Jonesboro (Jackson)	6,050	5,550	500	8.0	6,050	5,500	550	9.0
Jennings (Jefferson Davis)	12,675	10,900	1,775	14.0	12,650	10,675	1,975	15.6
Thibodaux (Lafourche)	37,825	33,725	4,100	10.8	37,850	33,375	4,475	11.8
Jena (LaSalle)	5,900	5,350	550	9.4	5,925	5,300	625	10.4
Ruston (Lincoln)	21,250	20,300	950	4.4	21,075	20,000	1,075	5.1
Tallulah (Madison)	5,250	4,375	875	16.7	5,125	4,200	925	18.0
Bastrop (Morehouse)	13,000	11,375	1,625	12.5	12,900	11,075	1,825	14.1
Natchitoches (Natchitoches)	17,025	15,500	1,525	8.9	17,000	15,275	1,725	10.2
Point-a-la-Hache(Plaqum.)	14,175	13,100	1,075	7.6	14,175	13,025	1,150	8.0
New Roads (Pointe Coupee)	12,525	11,225	1,300	10.3	12,425	10,975	1,450	11.7
Coushatta (Red River)	4,100	3,725	375	9.4	4,050	3,650	400	9.9
Rayville (Richland)	7,900	6,800	1,100	14.0	7,775	6,625	1,150	14.8
Many (Sabine)	7,925	7,225	700	8.8	7,900	7,150	750	9.5
Norco (St. Charles)	21,575	19,500	2,075	9.6	21,450	19,350	2,100	9.8
Greensburg (St. Helena)	4,175	3,825	350	8.7	4,125	3,700	425	10.1
Lutcher (St. James)	10,725	9,475	1,250	11.6	10,650	9,350	1,300	12.1
Reserve (St. John)	17,325	15,400	1,925	11.1	17,275	15,275	2,000	11.6
Opelousas (St. Landry)	33,875	28,400	5,475	16.2	34,025	28,050	5,975	17.6
St. Martinville (St. Martin)	18,925	16,400	2,525	13.4	18,975	16,175	2,800	14.7
Morgan City (St. Mary)	32,475	28,175	4,300	13.2	32,775	27,900	4,875	14.9
Hammond (Tangipahoa)	33,475	28,650	4,825	14.4	33,475	28,250	5,225	15.6
St. Joseph (Tensas)	2,950	2,500	450	15.5	2,800	2,325	475	17.2
Houma (Terrebonne)	45,150	40,250	4,900	10.8	45,200	39,900	5,300	11.7
Farmerville (Union)	7,600	6,725	875	11.4	7,575	6,650	925	12.1
Abbeville (Vermilion)	24,050	21,275	2,775	11.5	23,850	20,925	2,925	12.3
Leesville (Vernon)	12,000	10,525	1,475	12.2	12,050	10,450	1,600	13.2
Bogalusa (Washington)	14,375	12,225	2,150	15.0	14,250	12,075	2,175	15.2
Oak Grove (West Carroll)	4,100	3,125	975	23.7	4,175	3,200	975	23.2
St. Francisville (W.Felic.)	3,325	3,050	275	8.0	3,350	3,050	300	9.0
Winnfield (Winn)	5,450	4,850	600	10.8	5,475	4,800	675	12.4

Note: Labor Market Areas are designated by name of principal Town, but include all of parish in parenthesis.

Above data rounded to nearest 25 except LMA's and Statewide which are rounded to nearest 100. Subtotals may not add to totals due to rounding. Rates computed from unrounded data.

ALEXANDRIA AREA (1)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1984*	Jan. 1984**	Feb. 1983**	Net Change From Jan. 1984	Net Change From Feb. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	53.9	53.9	52.3	0	+ 1.6
MANUFACTURING	5.4	5.4	4.9	0	+ 0.5
Durable Goods	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.6	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	2.5	2.5	2.1	0	+ 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.5	0	+ 0.4
NONMANUFACTURING	48.5	48.5	47.4	0	+ 1.1
Construction	3.2	3.2	3.0	0	+ 0.2
Trans., Comm., & Pub. Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	12.2	12.3	11.9	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Wholesale Trade	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
Retail Trade	9.5	9.6	9.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	1.9	2.0	1.8	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.3	2.3	2.1	0	+ 0.2
Other Retail Trade	4.1	4.1	4.1	0	0
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
Services & Mining	11.8	11.7	11.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Health Services	5.2	5.2	4.9	0	+ 0.3
Other Services & Mining	6.6	6.5	6.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Government	15.9	15.9	15.8	0	+ 0.1
Federal	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0
State	5.8	5.8	5.8	0	0
Local	7.3	7.3	7.2	0	+ 0.1

(1) Geographic coverage of data now published for this area differs from the standard definition. Data also includes Avoyelles Parish.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria Labor Market Area during February was estimated at 53,900. The employment estimate was unchanged since the previous month, but an overall gain of 1,600 from this month a year ago.

Total manufacturing employment unchanged since last month, has increased 500 from February of last year. The gain was in durable and nondurable goods.

Total employment in nonmanufacturing for February remained the same since last month. There was a slight decline in retail trade, but a slight gain in services. Since February of last year, employment in nonmanufacturing has increased by 1,100. Increases were in each major segment, except transportation, communication and utilities.

Total employment should be fairly constant during the next thirty days. The number of unemployed may decrease slightly depending upon the weather.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1984*	Jan. 1984**	Feb. 1983**	Net Change From Jan. 1984	Net Change From Feb. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	208.5	206.4	203.2	+ 2.1	+ 5.3
MANUFACTURING	21.9	22.1	22.9	- 0.2	- 1.0
Durable Goods	3.9	4.0	3.9	- 0.1	0
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.3	0	+ 0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	0.9	1.0	1.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.8	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	18.0	18.1	19.0	- 0.1	- 1.0
Food & Kindred Products	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	13.2	13.3	14.4	- 0.1	- 1.2
Other Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING	186.6	184.3	180.3	+ 2.3	+ 6.3
Mining	0.9	0.9	1.1	0	- 0.2
Construction	19.6	19.6	21.3	0	- 1.7
Transportation and Public Utilities	10.1	10.0	10.1	+ 0.1	0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	50.1	50.0	45.6	+ 0.1	+ 4.5
Wholesale Trade	11.5	11.5	11.0	0	+ 0.5
Retail Trade	38.6	38.5	34.6	+ 0.1	+ 4.0
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	12.3	12.2	12.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Services	38.9	39.0	37.7	- 0.1	+ 1.2
Government	54.7	52.6	52.5	+ 2.1	+ 2.2

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$498.37	$498.10	$463.60	43.0	42.5	40.0	$11.59	$11.72	$11.59
Petro-Chemicals	657.93	667.53	607.51	45.5	46.1	43.8	14.46	14.48	13.87

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 11,700 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA was estimated at 208,500 during February, up 2,100 over January's revised estimate of 206,400 and up 5,300 over the total for last February. Manufacturing was down 200 and nonmanufacturing was up 2,300 during the current period.

Employment in manufacturing totaled 21,900 in Feburary, down 200 from the January revised estimate. Durable goods dropped due to less business in fabricated structural metal products. Nondurable goods were down due partially to what is expected to be the final lay-off in a department closure of an industrial organic chemcials manufacturer.

Estimated employment in nonmanufacturing at 186,600 during February was up 2,300 over January's revised estimate. Mining, construction and wholesale trade employment remained stable during the current period. Transportation and public utilities were up due to more business in services incidental to water transportation, radio and television broadcasting, and in sanitary services. Retail trade employment increased due to reopening of eating and drinking places closed last month due to bad weather and more business in lumber and other building materials dealers, motor vehicle dealers (new and used), miscellaneous shopping goods stores and in miscellaneous retail stores, not elsewhere classified. Finance, insurance, and real estate was up due to increased employment in commercial and stock savings banks. Government employment was up due to a seasonal increase in colleges, universities, professional schools, and junior colleges. Services were down due to employment reductions in services to dwellings and other buildings, advertising, hospitals, and in engineering, architectural, and surveying services.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 222,800 during February, up 3,100 from January's revised estimate of 219,700. Unemployment at 18,600 in February was down 1,600 from last month's revised estimate and down 4,800 from February of last year. February's unemployment rate at 7.7 percent is down from the revised 8.4 percent rate for last month. The state's unemployment rate is 9.8 percent for February. The local civilian labor force totaled 241,400 in February, up 1,500 over January's revised total and up 7,600 over the total for last February.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's estimated 11,700 production workers in all manufacturing industries was $498.37 in February, up $0.27 from January's revised average. Average weekly hours were up 0.5 hours and average hourly earnings were down $0.13. More overtime by lower paid employees contributed to these changes.

The Baton Rouge and Gonzales Job Service Offices served 2,200 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 376 applicants in jobs during February.

The consumer price index for January, 1984 for all urban consumers was 305.2 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 302.7 using base period 1967=100.

Unemployment and the unemployment rate is expected to drop some during the coming month due to seasonal changes.

CORRECTED

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1983*
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	87.8
MANUFACTURING	3.7
Durable Goods	2.0
Nondurable Goods	1.7
Food & Kindred Products	1.1
NONMANUFACTURING	84.1
Mining	16.2
Construction	5.2
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	6.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade	23.8
Wholesale Trade	6.7
Retail Trade	17.1
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.3
Food Stores	2.4
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.5
Other Retail Trade	9.9
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	3.8
Services	18.0
Government	10.4

The revised data for December 1983 is being corrected to reflect new benchmarked employment which was incorrectly reported last month.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1984*	Jan. 1984**	Feb. 1983**	Net Change From Jan. 1984	Net Change From Feb. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	88.1	87.3	89.0	+ 0.8	- 0.9
MANUFACTURING	3.8	3.7	4.0	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Durable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	1.7	1.6	1.8	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	84.3	83.6	85.0	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Mining	17.0	16.5	17.8	+ 0.5	- 0.8
Construction	5.0	5.2	5.3	- 0.2	- 0.3
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	6.7	6.7	7.3	0	- 0.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	23.4	23.4	22.4	0	+ 1.0
Wholesale Trade	6.5	6.6	6.7	- 0.1	- 0.2
Retail Trade	16.9	16.8	15.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.7	2.8	2.4	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Food Stores	2.5	2.5	2.2	0	+ 0.3
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.5	1.5	1.6	0	- 0.1
Other Retail Trade	10.2	10.0	9.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Services	18.3	18.3	18.0	0	+ 0.3
Government	10.1	9.7	10.4	+ 0.4	- 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Lafayette during February stood at 88,100, an 800 increase from the previous month but a 900 decrease from the same period of time a year ago. Nonmanufacturing, especially mining was responsible for the majority of the increase. Manufacturing was responsible for a small percent of the increase. Most of the other industries have remained relatively stable and have shown little growth.

The economy in the Lafayette area is showing signs of recovery. This is evidenced by the fact that unemployment claims are down and the oil industry is starting to do some hiring.

The unemployment rate for the Lafayette LMA is expected to remain about the same for the coming months. The only noticeable increase may be in construction because of better weather.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1984*	Jan. 1984**	Feb. 1983**	Net Change From Jan. 1984	Net Change From Feb. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	58.9	59.0	61.2	- 0.1	- 2.3
MANUFACTURING	9.2	9.2	10.0	0	- 0.8
Durable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	8.4	8.4	9.1	0	- 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Pet Products	7.6	7.6	8.2	0	- 0.6
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	49.7	49.8	51.2	- 0.1	- 1.5
Mining	2.3	2.3	2.4	0	- 0.1
Construction	4.8	4.8	6.6	0	- 1.8
Trans., Comm. & Pub. & Utilities	4.3	4.3	4.3	0	0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	13.9	14.0	13.9	- 0.1	0
Wholesale Trade	3.3	3.3	3.2	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	10.6	10.7	10.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.1	2.2	2.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.3	3.3	3.0	0	+ 0.3
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	3.0	3.0	2.8	0	+ 0.2
Services	10.9	10.9	10.6	0	+ 0.3
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Government	10.5	10.5	10.6	0	- 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Employment on area nonfarm payrolls fell 100 below the January level to the current estimate of 58,900. Nonmanufacturing garnered all of this loss. When the current nonfarm level is compared with the year ago level, a 2,300 job loss is noted. Two thirds of this loss appeared in the nonmanufacturing sector.

Manufacturing employment was unchanged from January but fell 800 below the January 1983 total. Nondurable goods sustained most of the loss.

The nonfactory job total dropped 100 below the mid-January level and this was centered in retail trade. During the past 12 month period nonmanufacturing employment fell by 1,500 and construction took most of this loss.

The employment outlook is cloudy for the immediate future, but unemployment may edge downward for reasons which are not readily apparent.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1984*	Jan. 1984**	Feb. 1983**	Net Change From Jan. 1984	Net Change From Feb. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	50.3	50.1	51.4	+ 0.2	- 1.1
MANUFACTURING	7.0	7.0	7.1	0	- 0.1
Durable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.0	0	+ 0.2
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	1.8	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	4.8	4.8	5.1	0	- 0.3
Food & Kindred Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Chemical & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.1	3.1	3.4	0	- 0.3
NONMANUFACTURING	43.3	43.1	44.3	+ 0.2	- 1.0
Mining	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Construction	2.8	2.6	2.8	+ 0.2	0
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	2.6	2.6	2.7	0	- 0.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	14.1	14.3	13.4	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Wholesale Trade	4.0	4.0	4.0	0	0
Retail Trade	10.1	10.3	9.4	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.8	2.9	2.8	- 0.1	0
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.7	2.8	2.6	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	4.1	4.0	3.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Services	9.9	10.0	10.1	- 0.1	- 0.2
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Health Services	4.0	4.1	4.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
Government	9.2	9.0	10.8	+ 0.2	- 1.6

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total employment in Ouachita Parish rose to an estimated 50,300 during mid-February. This was 200 above the January estimate.

Manufacturing was unchanged over the month.

Nonmanufacturing, estimated at 43,300, was 200 above the January estimate. Construction rose by 200 as the weather began to moderate. Wholesale and retail trade followed the seasonal trend with a decline of 200 workers in retail. Finance, insurance and real estate rose by 100. Services declined by 100. Government rose by 200.

Employment is expected to continue to rise slowly while unemployment declines slightly.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1984*	Jan. 1984**	Feb. 1983**	Net Change From Jan. 1984	Net Change From Feb. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	505.0	505.2	499.6	- 0.2	+ 5.4
MANUFACTURING	39.0	39.2	41.8	- 0.2	- 2.8
Durable Goods	22.6	22.8	24.8	- 0.2	- 2.2
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.4	0.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	2.5	2.6	2.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	3.1	3.2	3.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
Machinery, Except Electrical	2.9	2.8	3.0	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Transportation Equipment	12.2	12.4	13.8	- 0.2	- 1.6
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	7.5	7.7	9.6	- 0.2	- 2.1
Other Durable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.9	0	- 0.5
Nondurable Goods	16.4	16.4	17.0	0	- 0.6
Food & Kindred Products	6.8	6.9	7.4	- 0.1	- 0.6
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	- 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	1.1	1.0	1.1	+ 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	3.2	3.2	3.2	0	0
Chemicals and Allied Products	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	466.0	466.0	457.8	0	+ 8.2
Mining	18.7	18.5	19.3	+ 0.2	- 0.6
Construction	32.4	31.7	27.9	+ 0.7	+ 4.5
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	46.8	46.8	47.8	0	- 1.0
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Water Transportation	16.2	16.3	16.5	- 0.1	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	128.5	129.4	124.9	- 0.9	+ 3.6
Wholesale Trade	34.1	34.6	35.0	- 0.5	- 0.9
Retail Trade	94.4	94.8	89.9	- 0.4	+ 4.5
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	31.5	31.6	31.3	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Services	123.3	122.9	122.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.8
Government	84.8	85.1	84.1	- 0.3	+ 0.7
Federal	15.0	15.1	14.6	- 0.1	+ 0.4
State	20.6	20.9	22.1	- 0.3	- 1.5
Local	49.2	49.1	47.4	+ 0.1	+ 1.8

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**
All MANUFACTURING	$396.06	$387.60	$345.60	41.0	40.0	38.4	$9.66	$9.69	$9.00
Durable Goods	412.27	405.60	354.00	40.9	40.0	37.7	10.08	10.14	9.39
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	418.30	382.45	364.23	44.5	40.6	42.7	9.40	9.42	8.53
Fabricated Metal Products	439.63	414.33	410.03	42.6	40.7	39.2	10.32	10.18	10.46
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	382.13	389.32	333.22	37.5	38.7	35.6	10.19	10.06	9.36
Nondurable Goods	373.19	362.40	333.38	41.1	40.0	39.5	9.08	9.06	8.44
Food & Kindred Products	317.19	326.70	294.28	39.5	39.6	41.1	8.03	8.25	7.16
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	190.11	173.00	124.80	36.7	34.6	30.0	5.18	5.00	4.16
Paper & Allied Products	379.90	388.58	306.46	44.8	47.1	39.8	8.48	8.25	7.70
Printing & Publishing	385.85	324.80	286.21	44.3	40.0	39.1	8.71	8.12	7.32
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	575.46	596.50	640.72	40.9	40.8	44.9	14.07	14.62	14.27

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 25,700 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the New Orleans Labor Market Area in February tapered off to 505,000, down a slight 200 from January. Manufacturing was lowered by an overall decrease in the durable goods sector. Nonmanufacturing held steady as gains in construction, services, and mining offset decreases in other industry divisions.

Manufacturing employment in the New Orleans area totaled 39,000 in February, down 200 from last month. Decreases were reported throughout the food and kindred products industry, with the majority being in seafood processing. Ship and boatbuilding and repairing suffered losses mainly at the repair yards. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment has dropped 2,800.

Nonmanufacturing showed no total change, with increases in several industries offsetting decreases in others. Highlighting all endeavor was the great variety of work involving preparations for the 1984 World's Fair - both on and off the fair site. Construction added many workers. Mining pushed up, partly reflecting preparations for an increase in activity in the coming months when weather is better. Services gained, laregly in business services and private health services. Less favorably, wholesale trade moved down in both the durable goods and nondurable goods groups. Retail trade exhibited further seasonal downturns in general merchandise stores and apparel stores partly offset by a sizeable upturn in employment by eating and drinking places. Government was reduced mostly by a decrease in state government. Finance and insurance each displayed a general decrease. In transportation, a small downturn in water transportation was offset by a minor upturn in motor freight transportation.

Average weekly earnings for area production workers totaled $396.06 in February, $8.46 above last month. The increase was due to longer work schedules in both durable and nondurable goods. Average weekly hours increased by one hour and average hourly earnings decreased by three cents. Compared to one year ago, factory workers are earning an average $50.46 more a week.

Estimated unemployment in February decreased to 44,800, a level 3,000 below January. Seasonal factors and overall improvements in the national economy were partly responsible for this change. Current joblessness accounts for 8.5 percent of the labor force compared to 9.0 percent in January and 11.0 percent in February of last year. Beneficiaries of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 13,335. About 44.0 percent of the claimants were non-white; approximately 29.0 percent were female.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is anticipated to show a substantial overall increase. Preparation for the 1984 World's Fair will continue to highlight all economic activity in the area. Construction is expected to add many more workers. Mining will benefit from better weather conditions and will hopefully increase activity considerably both onshore and offshore. Retail trade will be favored by shopping for the Easter season. Unemployment is predicted to decrease as employment increases.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1984*	Jan. 1984**	Feb. 1983**	Net Change From Jan. 1984	Net Change From Feb. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	146.9	146.2	143.9	+ 0.7	+ 3.0
MANUFACTURING	24.5	24.1	22.5	+ 0.4	+ 2.0
Durable Goods	18.7	18.3	16.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.9
Lumber and Wood Products	1.5	1.5	1.3	0	+ 0.2
Metals and Machinery	11.3	11.0	11.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.9	3.9	3.5	0	+ 0.4
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	7.4	7.1	7.7	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Other Durable Goods	5.9	5.8	4.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.6
Nondurable Good	5.8	5.8	5.7	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.0	1.1	1.0	- 0.1	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.7	1.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING	122.4	122.1	121.4	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
Mining	6.3	6.6	6.4	- 0.3	- 0.1
Construction	8.5	8.4	8.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	9.4	9.3	9.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Wholesale and Retail Trade	32.9	33.3	33.7	- 0.4	- 0.8
Wholesale Trade	9.1	9.1	9.0	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	23.8	24.2	24.7	- 0.4	- 0.9
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	8.1	8.0	7.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Services	31.0	30.5	30.0	+ 0.5	+ 1.0
Government	26.2	26.0	26.3	+ 0.2	- 0.1

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**
All MANUFACTURING	$406.43	$406.19	$375.47	41.6	42.4	40.2	$9.77	$9.58	$9.34
Lumber and Wood Products	171.23	187.43	228.72	40.1	42.5	42.2	4.27	4.41	5.42
Metals and Machinery	425.87	412.09	389.75	43.5	43.7	41.2	9.79	9.43	9.46
Food and Kindred Products	216.91	233.63	208.03	35.1	38.3	35.5	6.18	6.10	5.86
Printing and Publishing	248.85	243.07	237.06	30.2	28.1	28.7	8.24	8.65	8.26
Petroleum and Coal Products	559.68	593.62	500.50	45.8	47.3	46.3	12.22	12.55	10.81

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 17,700 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the Shreveport area increased to 146,900, an increase of 700 during the past month, and 3,000 more than one year ago.

Total manufacturing employment is estimated as 24,500, a gain of 400 during the past month, and an increase of 2,000 from February, 1983. This employment gain occurred in the durable goods segment of manufacturing.

This area has an estimated 122,400 employed in nonmanufacturing, up 300 from the previous month, and 1,000 more than for February, 1983. During the past month, services employment shows the largest gain. Slight increases occurred in government, finance & real estate, transportation and public utilities, and construction. Most of this gain was eliminated by losses in mining and retail trade.

There are 17,700 production workers in the Shreveport area with average weekly earnings of $406.42, up from an average of $375.47 one year ago. Average weekly hours of 41.6 are nearly unchanged, down slightly from 42.4 last month, and above the year ago estimate of 40.2. The average hourly earnings increased to $9.77, up from $9.58 in January and $9.34 in February, 1983.

The total civilian labor force in the Shreveport area is 167,600, including 153,100 employed and 14,500 unemployed. The current unemployment rate is 8.7 percent, compared with 9.6 percent for last month and 13.0 percent for February, 1983. The national unemployment rate is 7.8 percent.

The economy of this area continues to show improvements. Total unemployment continues to move downward. Services and trade employment will receive an additional boost with the race track opening in April, and an increase in manufacturing employment is anticipated.